

REMARKS

Claims 1, 9, 18, 19 and 25-27 are currently pending in the application; with claims 1 and 26 being independent. Claims 1, 9, 18, 19 and 25-27 were pending prior to the Office Action. In this Reply, claims 1, 26 and 27 have been amended.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein. Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration thereof in light of the amendments and comments contained herein, and earnestly seeks timely allowance of the pending claims.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Regarding the information disclosure statement filed January 25, 2005, that IDS only submitted a European Office Action with information for the Examiner. No patents, publications or patent applications were submitted in the IDS of January 25, 2005, because the patents, publications and patent applications mentioned in the European Office Action were previously cited in the IDS filed on December 5, 2003 which the Examiner has considered and initialized on December 9, 2005.

Per Examiner's request, Applicant attaches herein form PTO/SB/08 listing the document to be considered as the European Office Action submitted on January 25, 2005.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter for claims 26 and 27.

Applicant has rewritten claim 26 in independent form by incorporating claim 1. Hence, claims 26 and 27 (depending from claim 26) are now allowable.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claim 27 is objected to because of the incomplete term "said common".

This objection is respectfully traversed. Applicant has amended claim 27 to recite "said common bed".

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the claim objection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 18, 19 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meyer (US Patent 6,302,579) in view of Nambu (US Patent 5,615,430). Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meyer in view of Nambu further in view of Nonaka (US Patent 6,094,760).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to recite “wherein said CT scanner is disposed in parallel to said irradiation apparatus, said irradiation apparatus is disposed in parallel to said X-ray simulator, and said common bed is linearly movable through its linear moving mechanism between said CT scanner, said irradiation apparatus and said X-ray simulator.”

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the Examiner has the burden of meeting the basic criterion that the prior art must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations.

Regarding this basic criterion, the Applicant submits that the combination of Meyer and Nambu (assuming these references may be combined, which Applicant does not admit) does not disclose or suggest a CT scanner disposed in parallel to an irradiation apparatus, an irradiation apparatus disposed in parallel to an X-ray simulator, and a common bed which is linearly movable through a linear moving mechanism between the CT scanner, the irradiation apparatus and the X-ray simulator.

Meyer and Nambu also do not disclose or suggest a moving mechanism comprising a linear moving mechanism for said CT scanner, and a linear moving mechanism for said common bed, said linear moving mechanisms being disposed such that the movement directions of said CT scanner and said common bed cross each other.

None of the references discloses or suggests a common bed which is linearly movable through its linear moving mechanism between three apparatuses/machines.

Meyer does not disclose a common bed which is linearly movable through a linear moving mechanism between a CT scanner, an irradiation apparatus and an X-ray simulator. The

bed in Meyer is stationary (col. 1 lines 61-62, col. 2 lines 49-52, col. 3 line 12, and col. 3 lines 52-56 pertaining specifically to Figs. 4 and 5). In Fig. 3 of Meyer, the bed 5 is arranged on a rotary table 13 which rotates, but does not move linearly (col. 3 lines 42-45). In Figs. 4 and 5, the bed 5 is completely stationary (col. 3 lines 55-56).

In Meyer, the imaging systems 1, 2, and 3 are arranged on a displacement platform 14, so that they can be selectively positioned in front of the stationary, non-rotatable patient support table 5. The bed 5 is not linearly movable. Meyer does not disclose or suggest a common bed which is linearly movable through a linear moving mechanism of the bed, between imaging systems 1, 2 and 3. Claim 1, however, recites that the common bed is linearly movable through its linear moving mechanism between three machines (CT scanner, irradiation apparatus and X-ray simulator).

Since the bed in Meyer does not move linearly, Meyer also does not disclose or suggest a moving mechanism comprising a linear moving mechanism for one of the imaging systems 1, 2 or 3 and a linear moving mechanism for a common bed, said linear moving mechanisms being disposed such that the movement directions of the imaging system and the common bed cross each other.

Nambu has a linear accelerator and CT apparatus which are fixed in position. The bed moves circularly along a rail and can swing about a rotation axis. However, the only linear movements in Nambu are the table adjustment where the bed extends from the base. The bed of Nambu is only rotated horizontally around a predetermined central axis; therefore, a center point of rotation movement of the bed is fixed on the floor surface. The movement of the common bed of the present invention as claimed in claim 1 is different from the movement of Nambu's bed. The bed as claimed in claim 1 can move with a high degree of freedom and without having a fixed point on the floor surface, as Nambu's bed has.

Nambu does not disclose a common bed which is linearly movable through a linear moving mechanism between a CT scanner, an irradiation apparatus and an X-ray simulator. The bed in Nambu rotates but is not linearly movable through a linear moving mechanism between three apparatuses.

Since the bed in Nambu does not move linearly, Nambu also does not disclose or suggest

a moving mechanism comprising a linear moving mechanism for a CT scanner, and a linear moving mechanism for the common bed, said linear moving mechanisms being disposed such that the movement directions of said CT scanner and said common bed cross each other.

Because neither Meyer nor Nambu discloses or suggests a common bed which is linearly movable through its linear moving mechanism between three apparatuses, the combination of Meyer and Nambu does not disclose or suggest a common bed which is linearly movable through its linear moving mechanism between a CT scanner, an irradiation apparatus and an X-ray simulator, as recited in claim 1.

Also, because neither Meyer nor Nambu discloses or suggests a moving mechanism comprising a linear moving mechanism for a CT scanner, and a linear moving mechanism for a common bed, said linear moving mechanisms being disposed such that the movement directions of said CT scanner and said common bed cross each other, the combination of Meyer and Nambu cannot disclose or suggest this feature recited in claim 1.

The common bed recited in claim 1 is said to include a positional adjustment means which allows the adjustment of the top plate of the bed in three directions, the lateral direction, longitudinal direction and the height direction. This positional adjustment means is in addition to the linear moving mechanism for the common bed which is disposed so that the movement direction for the CT scanner crosses the movement direction for the bed. It is further noted that claim 1 recites that said CT scanner is disposed in parallel to said irradiation apparatus, said irradiation apparatus is disposed in parallel to said X-ray simulator, and said common bed is linearly movable through its linear moving mechanism between said CT scanner, said irradiation apparatus and said X-ray simulator. Applicants submit first that the movement of a common bed linearly between apparatuses that are disposed in parallel is not disclosed in any of the references.

In Nambu et al., the bed is rotated horizontally around a central axis. None of the references teaches the concept that the top of the bed can move in three directions in addition to the linear moving mechanism. Applicants submit that since none of the references teach this concept, claim 1 is not obvious over the combination of references.

Applicant submits that the Examiner's reliance on Nonaka on page 4 of the Office Action as allegedly pertaining to incremental features of claim 9 fails to make up for the deficiencies of the asserted Meyer and Nambu references discussed above with respect to independent claim 1. Therefore, the asserted grounds of rejection fail to establish *prima facie* obviousness of any pending claim.

Claims 9, 18, 19 and 25 depend from claim 1 and as such are also considered to be allowable. In addition, each of these claims recite other features and make them additionally allowable. For example, claim 19 describes the adjustment of the position of the patient on the common bed in the detectable region of the scanner. Accordingly, these claims are additionally allowable.

For all of the above reasons, taken alone or in combination, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claim 1. Claims 9, 18, 19 and 25 depend from claim 1 and are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency.

CONCLUSION

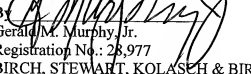
In view of the above Remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patents relied on by the Examiner, either alone or in combination. In view of this, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Corina E. Tanasa, Limited Recognition No. L0292 under 37 CFR §11.9(b), at telephone number (703) 208-4003, located in the Washington, DC area, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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